

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9099

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, IR

SUBJ: VISIT TO IRAN OF THAILAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER

1. THAI FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAIRATTAKUN PAID VISIT TO IRAN SEPTEMBER 11-13 DURING WHICH HE MET WITH SHAH, PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND ENGAGED IN BUSY SCHEDULE OF CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES. ONLY CONCRETE OUTCOME OF VISIT WAS SIGNING OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND THAILAND BUT RATTAKUN EXPLORED WITH SHAH AND GOI LEADERS POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDED COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC TIES. THAI MINISTRY OF TRADE IS EXPECTED TO LEAD TECHNICAL DELEGATION TO THAILAND IN OCTOBER TO SEEK OUT SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES.

2. RATTAKUN GAVE INTERVIEW TO REPORTERS FROM KAYHAN AND RASTAKHIS, THE PARTY ORGAN, IN WHICH HE DEVELOPED THEME THAT THAILAND IS BASTION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST STRENGTH WHICH HAS BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH COMMUNIST THREATS TO EXTERNAL SECURITY AND DOMESTIC STABILITY. HE COMPARED INTERNAL REFORMS NOW GOING ON IN THAILAND WITH THOSE OF IRAN'S WHITE REVOLUTION. THESE REFORMS AND GREATER AWARENESS BY THAI PUBLIC OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO-CHINA HAVE RESULTED IN REDUCING NUMBER OF LEFTIST DEPUTIES IN PRESENT PARLIAMENT AND GREATER STABILITY OF THAI GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED STRATEGIC SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH IRANIAN LEADERS AND HAD EXPRESSED AGREEMENT TO CONCEPT OF INDIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE BUT HAD NOT SOUGHT MILITARY OR NAVAL

COOPERATION BETWEEN IRAN AND THAILAND.

3. IN DISCUSSING VISIT WITH EMBOFFS, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASIA AND AFRICA SADRIEH SAID IRAN HAD WANTED TO MOVE CLOSER TO THAILAND EVER SINCE 1968 VISIT BY SHAH AND EMPRESS TO BANGKOK. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, GOI HAD FELT IT WAS UP TO THAIS TO TAKE FURTHER INITIATIVES AND THEY HAD BEEN PRE-OCCUPIED WITH EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEARER HOME. RATTAKUN'S VISIT SIGNIFIED RECIPROCAL THAI GESTURE AND COULD LEAD WAY TO CLOSER POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL TIES. GOI, HE SAID, HOPES TO SET UP JOINT VENTURES IN FOOD PRODUCTION IN THAILAND, BUT MUST CONDUCT DETAILED STUDIES FURST TO DETERMINE WHAT PRODUCTS WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS. FOR THEIR PART, THAIS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOI WOULD ASSIST IN BUILDING PETRO/CHEMICAL PLANT NEAR NATURAL GAS FIELDS IN WESTERN THAILAND. BOTH SADRIEH AND THAI EMBASSY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH VISIT BUT REALIZED THERE IS LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THAIS AND IRANIANS BECOME IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS.  
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